

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SEC-01 JUSE-00 L-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9246

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT CS

SUBJECT: ODUBER COMMENTS ON VESCO EXTRADITION

1. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 29 FOR VISITING MEXICAN JOURNALISTS AND APPARENTLY WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF COSTA RICAN NEWSMEN, PRESIDENT ODUBER REPORTEDLY AT LENGTH COMMENTED ABOUT THE VESCO CASE. BOTH "LA NACION" AND "EXCELSIOR," ALTHOUGH NOT PRESENT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, PUBLISHED ALMOST IDENTICAL ACCOUNTS OF HIS REMARKS.
2. IN "LA NACION" ODUBER WAS REPORTED AS SAYING HE PREFERRED THAT VESCO KEEP HIS MONEY HERE (ODBUER MENTIONED \$60 MILLION THAT VESCO HAD BROUGHT HERE) SO THAT IT WILL BE "SECURE FOR THE SMALL STOCKHOLDERS WHO WERE DEFRAUDED." SINCE IT IS IN COSTA RICA, ODUBER REPORTEDLY SAID THAT ANY INTERESTED COURT COULD UNDERTAKE AN INVESTIGATION OF VESCO IN COSTA RICE. HE REPORTEDLY SAID HE HOPES THAT OFFICIALS OR LAWYERS OF THE U.S. OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY IWLL COME TO SEE HOW MUCH COSTA RICA IS WILLING TO HELP THEM IN STUDYING THE CASE.

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3. "EXCELSIOR", GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED PAPER, REPORTED

ODUBER ADDRESSING THE QUESTION OF EXTRADITION SPECIFICALLY.
HE REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED THAT THE 1922 EXTRADITION TREATY
DOES NOT INCLUDE "MODERN CRIMES" CONCERNING THE STOCK EXCHANGE
AND SHARES AND THUS THE U.S. WAS NOT ABLE TO FIND LEGAL JUST-
IFICATION, WITHIN THE TREATY, TO EXTRADITE VESCO. THE "EXCELSIOR"
ARTICLE REPORTED THAT ODUBER TOLD THE MEXICANS THAT "THE
AMERICAN EMBASSY HAS BEEN PRESSURING THE DEPUTIES TO REFORM
THE EXTRADITION LAW SO IT WILL BE EASY TO EXTRADITE VESCO."
ODUBER REPORTEDLY CLAIMED TO HAVE TOLD THE COSTA RICAN
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES "IF THE EXTRADITION LAW IS
REFORMED, IF A CASE IS PRESENTED IN THE AMERICAN COURTS, IF
THE JUDGMENT IS AGAINST VESCO, IF HIS EXTRADITION IS THEN
REQUESTED OF THE COSTA RICAN SUPREME COURT, AND THE COURT
DECIDES IN FAVOR OF SUCH EXTRADITION, THEN WE WILL PUT HIM
ON THE PLANE, AND HE'LL GO.
LANE

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